

Hello,

I am very concerned about the newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership ban "review", and the effect that it would have on the quality of print journalism across the country.

I do NOT think this move would be in the best interest of the people. Here are several reasons why I feel this way:

1. It seems that the various mergers of the oil companies has resulted in them being able to blatantly manipulate prices (summer vs winter, labor day, etc.) without any penalty, despite public outcry.

2. Have you listened to the radio lately? Its really hard to find decent, community based programming (stuff that you can listen to with your kids) lately. Could this be due to the conglomeration of radio companies? Complaints about this have resulted in responses like "If you don't like it, change the channel"... But what if ALL of the channels are the same?

3. I'm not even going to start discussing Microsoft.

I could go on, but I hope you get my point by now. As companies grow larger and more powerful, individual or local concerns are often disregarded.

Some colleagues of mine recently summed up my concerns (and theirs) with this simple statment: "It seems like we are losing our democracy".

Sadly, I had to agree.

Sincerely,
Mike Davis